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OUTGOING MESSAGE

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE | COL | ACP | TOG | TPE | MRO | TRI

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CLASSIFICATION

CIA/OCI /WHIZ 740509

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR | DATE-TIME GROUP | CITE | MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/WHSS

SOURCE REF:

ROUTING

1		4		7		10	
2		5		8		11	
						12	

25X1

[redacted]

ITEM NO: 2 DATE: 4 MAY 1974

SUBJECT: PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI'S HEALTH

25X1

REF [redacted]

A CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN HAS ANNOUNCED THAT PREMIER CHOU WILL BE UNABLE TO ATTEND A STATE BANQUET TONIGHT FOR THE PRESIDENT OF SENEGAL BECAUSE OF ILLNESS, ACCORDING TO WESTERN PRESS REPORTS FROM PEKING. THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT CHOU WAS NEITHER CONFINED TO BED NOR IN THE HOSPITAL AND THAT HE FELT UNWELL "BECAUSE OF OLD AGE." CHOU HAS ALREADY MET WITH THE SENEGALESE LEADER THIS AFTERNOON.

THE ADMISSION IS HIGHLY UNUSUAL, BUT IS DESIGNED TO PORTRAY CHOU'S HEALTH PROBLEMS AS MINOR. THE 76-YEAR-OLD PREMIER HAS BEEN SLOWING DOWN, AND SOME OF HIS CEREMONIAL DUTIES HAVE RECENTLY

DATE:
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FORM 4-73 4C USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

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CLASSIFICATION

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ROUTING

1		4		7		10	
2		5		8		11	
3		6		9		12	

SEEN PERFORMED BY VICE PREMIERS TENG HSIAO-PING AND LI HSIEN-NIEN.

CHOU'S POLITICAL HEALTH SEEMS TO BE AS STRONG AS NEVER. E-2

IMPDET.M

25X1A9A

SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: EAP DIV AND NIO

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